



# Asbestos

MONTHLY  
SAFETY  
BRIEF  
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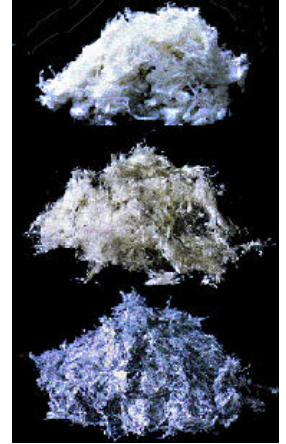
## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is naturally occurring silicate minerals that can be separated into fibers, such as chrysotile, amosite and crocidolite (pictured right from the top).



Some asbestos materials break into small fibers which float in the air. These fibers can be inhaled. The tiny fibers are so small they cannot be seen with the naked eye. They can pass through the filters of normal vacuum cleaners, back into the air. Once inhaled, asbestos fibers can become lodged in human tissue for a long time. After many years

cancer can develop.



## What are asbestos-containing products?



Asbestos fibers are strong, durable, and resistant to heat and fire. They are also long, thin and flexible, so that they can be woven into cloth. Some of the more common asbestos-containing products are pipe-coverings, insulating cement, joint compounds, floor and ceiling tiles, duct insulation for heating, and roofing products. (The picture above shows a typical asbestos insulated heating pipe found in some older homes.)

## How can we protect ourselves from asbestos?

- 1) Do not drill, chip, hammer, scratch, break and sweep if the materials contain asbestos.
- 2) Know the history of the buildings and the rooms where you work. Contact Public Works Environmental Office at DSN 264- 3552 for any suspect materials that may contain asbestos.
- 3) Smoking in asbestos suspected areas increases chances for cancer.
- 4) Wear and maintain your Personal Protective Equipment.
- 5) Place caution signs in and around asbestos known areas.
- 6) Get required physical check-ups.
- 7) Educate yourself asbestos and its effects.